

APHIS – Plant Protection and Quarantine
Daily Situation Report: Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)
 April 19, 2007

Survey and Diagnostics Information:

Counties	Survey		Diagnostics		
	Number of Traps	Number of Positive Traps	Presumptive Positive	Confirmed Positive	
				Today	Total
Alameda	1,224	66	0	3	82
Contra Costa	1,385	37	0	13	43
Fresno	350	0	0	0	0
Imperial	103	0	0	0	0
Kern	294	0	0	0	0
Kings	115	0	0	0	0
Los Angeles	793	0	0	0	0
Marin	546	8	0	0	8
Monterey	50	2	0	0	2
Napa	167	0	0	0	0
Orange	588	0	0	0	0
Sacramento	168	0	0	0	0
San Diego	473	0	0	0	0
San Francisco	112	15	0	0	51
San Joaquin	62	0	0	0	0
San Luis Obispo	21	0	0	0	0
San Mateo	653	1	0	0	1
Santa Barbara	215	0	0	0	0
Santa Clara	885	2	0	0	2
Santa Cruz	47	4	0	3	19
Solano	418	0	0	0	0
Sonoma	204	0	0	0	0
Sutter	40	0	0	0	0
Tulare	100	0	0	0	0
Ventura	227	0	0	0	0
Yolo	59	0	0	0	0
Yuba	12	0	0	0	0
Total	9,311	135	0	19	208

- **Survey**
 - Survey teams continue to implement a rigorous detection and delimiting survey for the light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, in 23 counties.
 - 9,311 traps have been deployed to date, with the majority being placed within a 50-mile radius of the initial LBAM detection. Traps are being inspected bi-weekly.
 - Nurseries located within 1.5 miles from any confirmed LBAM site in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, San Francisco, Santa Clara,

and Santa Cruz counties are being proactively inspected for the presence of LBAM.

- **Identification and Diagnostics**

- Trapped moths are forwarded to the California Department of Agriculture's (CDFA) Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory for the initial identification. All LBAM "presumptive positive" moths from each county are forwarded to the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, DC, for confirmation. In counties where previous specimens have been confirmed by SEL, subsequent captures are identified by CDFA.
- A total of 208 moths have been confirmed to date as LBAM from traps in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, San Francisco, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz counties. The majority of the moths were from traps located within ten miles of the initial find.

Operational Update:

- **Technical Working Group (TWG)**

- APHIS has assembled a team of subject matter experts from the United States, Australia, and New Zealand to provide recommendations on survey methods, mitigation tools, and eradication strategies.

- **Incident Command**

- Thirty-six (36) personnel are on-site (32-CDFA/Counties; 4-APHIS) and assuming various roles within the ICS structure.

- **Regulatory Actions**

- CDFA has established a LBAM quarantine of at least 182 square miles in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Marin and Santa Clara counties. The regulations prohibit the movement of all nursery stock and host fruits and vegetables from the quarantine region unless it is certified as free-from the pest by an agricultural official. A LBAM Federal Order requiring inspection and certification of all host commodities from the quarantine areas has been developed. The Federal Order is scheduled to be finalized before April 27, 2007.

- **Trace-back and Trace-forward**

- Trace-back and trace-forward investigations to determine the source and potential distribution of LBAM continue, including the inspection of nursery establishments.

- **Treatment**

- Host plants in one San Francisco nursery was treated with Chlorpyrifos for LBAM larvae. Post treatment inspection on April 9 resulted in no additional larvae or pupae.
- CDFA and APHIS are in the process of developing LBAM eradication strategies using mating disruption and other control measures.

Trade:

- Reports were provided to Canada and Mexico in response to their requests for additional information regarding the LBAM situation, including U.S. quarantine plans and import requirements of host commodities originating from infested areas of the world.

Communication and Outreach:

- Public Information Officers (PIO) and officials from CDFA, APHIS, and Counties continue to field questions from the press and the public regarding the LBAM finds and the regulatory framework.

Background:

- On February 6, 2007, a private citizen near Berkeley in Alameda County, California, reported that two suspect moths had been captured in a blacklight trap on his property.
- In response, pheromone-baited traps were placed on March 1, 2007, in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Trap inspections began March 7, 2007.
- On March 16, 2007, the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, DC, confirmed that the two samples submitted were positive, and validated the results using morphological testing.
- USDA and CDFA issued press releases on March 22, 2007, announcing the confirmation of LBAM in California. APHIS. Also, APHIS issued a SPRO letter informing States and stakeholders of the LBAM in California.
- The light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, is a native pest of Australia and is now widely distributed New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and New Caledonia.
- Although it was reported in Hawaii in the late 1800s, the LBAM find in California is the first on the US mainland.
- If left uncontrolled, LABM could cause significant damage to some 250 plant species, including stone fruit (peaches, plums, nectarines, cherries, and apricots), pome fruit (apples and pears), grapes, and citrus.